

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

JULY 22, 2003

6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Board members present were Chair Hilda Testa, Vice-Chair Julie Aitken, Jason Hurley, Jacque Daniels and Barbara Spiece. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 24, 2003

Vice-Chair Aitken made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hurley, to approve the minutes of June 24, 2003. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (**Motion carried 5-0**)

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Programs for Equestrian and Agricultural Interests

Chair Testa indicated that there were many programs being offered by the Town but none were geared towards equestrian or agriculture. She referred to programs being offered by the 4-H Clubs such as animal husbandry and gardening, adding that this was not common knowledge to residents. Chair Testa suggested that Boardmembers present ideas for new programs as well as ideas to contact existing programs. Vice-Chair Aitken referred to a program being offered by the Farm Bureau and explained the process involved. Chair Testa explained that the Department of Agriculture offered continuing education programs to school teachers in exchange for time. There was a lengthy discussion regarding ways to bring awareness of the continuing education program to schoolteachers as well as the awareness of agricultural lifestyle to school children. Chair Testa commented that there was a generation being raised without the awareness or respect for the agricultural lifestyle because they were not being taught.

Vice-Chair Aitken spoke about the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) indicating that applicants were being asked to provide access to school children for educational tours. A brief discussion followed concerning insurance issues.

Chair Testa referred to camps that were sponsored by the Town adding that none of the camps provided an equestrian program. The Board discussed several options to bring awareness to the residents of the various equestrian children's camp in the Town. Chair Testa indicated that some camps were operated by State grant funds with the location, counselors and funds for field trips provided by the Town. She suggested a voucher program to an equestrian or agricultural camp, adding that this would promote Davie agricultural businesses. Mr. Hurley suggested that an advertisement be placed in the Davie Update inviting people with agricultural related activities for children within the Town who would be interested in being placed on a reference list.

Chair Testa indicated that she would contact Town Administrator Thomas Willi to request his permission to place the ad. She added that she would contact Fred Siegel of the Broward Farm Bureau to request a list of programs that were sponsored by the Bureau. The Board discussed contacting several other people regarding environmental issues.

There was discussion concerning nature walks by environmental groups. Ms. Spiece referred to the Rare Fruit and Vegetable Council, an organization operated by Broward County that met monthly. She made reference to Extension Service, which was funded by the government, and offered free assistance to the farmers who were having problems with their farm. Ms. Spiece spoke of several other organizations with government funded programs in place.

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 22, 2003

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding environmental issues and existing programs relating to this issue. Chair Testa referred to the numerous parks within the Town including equestrian parks and the new park located on a former landfill. A brief discussion followed regarding landfill, chemicals and water issues.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that the Right-To-Hobby Farm Act had been placed on the Town Council agenda. She advised that she met with Town Attorney Monroe Kiar and Attorney Andre Parke to review the document and make any changes or corrections. Vice-Chair Aitken apprised the Board of the proposed changes to the document and the procedures before the final reading providing the act was approved by Council. A lengthy discussion followed regarding zoning issues.

Chair Testa referred to the liability signs and indicated that she was glad that Councilmember Paul had made the suggestion to contact Public Works and Capital Projects Director Bruce Bernard regarding the issue.

Vice-Chair Aitken provided an update on the issue with the Property Appraiser William Markham concerning the lawsuit.

Chair Testa advised that the letter requested by Planning Supervisor Marcie Nolan in support of the Florida Land Trust was not needed immediately. She indicated that Ms. Nolan would be contacting the Board when the need arose.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Testa discussed the issue of deed restrictions against horses and made suggestions for incentives for open space design. Vice-Chair Aitken advised that a workshop on open space design would be held on August 20th. A lengthy discussion followed regarding new developments and open space design. Chair Testa spoke on the Davie Commons and indicated that the issue was ongoing. Vice-Chair Aitken indicated that it would be on the agenda in September for a land use amendment. The Board briefly discussed Davie Commons comparing it to the Sheridan House issue.

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

A brief discussion ensued regarding the resignation of Ms. Spiece. Ms. Spiece indicated that she would no longer be able to attend the meetings and cited personal issues. Mr. Hurley inquired if she had any suggestion for a new member to which she responded negatively.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 22, 2003

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member